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Istook Funds Vital Defense Projects

Washington, DC – Several essential defense projects with Oklahoma ties received a total of \$25.3 million in funding in a new spending bill, Rep. Ernest Istook (R- Warr Acres) announced today.

"National defense is one of our government's most sacred duties," said Istook. "These projects will protect our troops and make our technology the best it can be, allowing us to fight the War on Terrorism with even greater success."

Defense projects which Istook got included in this bill include:

- *The Oklahoma Air National Guard in Tulsa received \$15 million to upgrade F-16 fighter engines.*
 - This project will help keep these planes flying out of Tulsa for continued use defending our country.
 - The funds will be used to upgrade F-16 fighter aircraft engines enabling them with the same capabilities as the active duty Air Force.
 - **"Tulsa has been a great home for the Oklahoma Air National Guard and this funding ensures that they will continue to provide a vital part of our nation's defense," Istook said.**
- *The Institute for Protective Apparel Research Technology (IMPART) at Oklahoma State University received \$2.5 million for Protective Apparel Technology Systems.*
 - The project provides cutting edge QuadGuard body armor which protects the limbs of American soldiers from damage caused by Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks in Iraq.
 - QuadGuard is already rolling off the production line and being used in combat. CoverCraft Industries Inc. of Paul's Valley, Okla., is one of only two companies in the United States that are using this OSU developed technology to make more than 5,000 suits, most of which are already in use in Iraq.
 - **"Roadside bombs filled with shrapnel not only kill American soldiers, but also cause such terrible wounds to the arms and legs of survivors that they require amputation," said Istook. "This technology makes sure our soldiers both survive the attack and come home in one piece. OSU has found a way to extend protection to a soldier's arms and legs without losing flexibility or adding too much weight."**
- *Nomadics, Inc. of Stillwater, Okla. received \$2.8 million for "Amplifying Fluorescent Polymer Based IED Detection."*
 - This project provides new methods of identifying IEDs, further protecting our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.
 - **"Nomadics is already deploying sniffer technology, helping to save lives by detecting hidden explosives or trace residue on a bomb builder. That's one of our most important needs in combating terrorism and protecting our forces in Iraq. Oklahoma is in the forefront of this crucial effort, thanks to Nomadics," Istook said.**

- *Raytheon Missile Systems received \$5 million for procurement of the Excalibur, XM982 155mm Extended Range Artillery Projectile.*
 - This groundbreaking GPS guided artillery shell can correct its course in mid-flight for greater accuracy and effectiveness against enemy forces.
 - Work on this contract will be performed in several locales including Oklahoma.
 - **“With this advanced technology, our soldiers can pinpoint the enemy and even adjust the flight of the shell if the enemy moves from their previous location. They can run but they can’t hide from this new guided artillery round tested and developed, in part, in Oklahoma,”**said Istook.